United Nations A/C.1/53/L.60

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 71 (d)
General and complete disarmament

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, the General Assembly would:

(a) Invite all States that had not yet done so to sign, or, after entry into force, to accede to, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;

(b) Welcome the generous offer of the Government of Mozambique to act as host for the First Meeting of the States Parties;

(c) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 11(2) of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the First Meeting of the States Parties, to take place in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999;

(d) Invite all States Parties to the First Meeting of the States Parties and, according to article 11(4) of the Convention, States not parties to this Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend this meeting as observers in accordance with the agreed Rules of Procedure.

2. It may be recalled that in the note by the Secretariat concerning the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.1 (A/C.1/52/L.47), the responsibilities of the United Nations and the Secretary-General under the terms of the Convention were outlined. By operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33 on the same subject, it would be necessary to enter into a host country agreement with the Government of Mozambique, since the meeting would be held away from an established

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headquarters. Following the preparatory meetings, initiated in response to General Assembly resolution 52/38 A and in fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Convention and the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, it would be necessary to dispatch to Mozambique a planning mission consisting of one Legal Officer, one Conference Services Officer and one Political Affairs Officer to determine the requirements for holding the meeting in Maputo. It is expected that the team would meet with officials of the Government of Mozambique, draw up a host country agreement and evaluate on-site conference requirements in order to determine the cost estimates for holding the meeting in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 5 relates to programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001[1] (part of which is proposed to be subsumed under new programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in its report on the work of its thirty-eighth session[2]). Provision has been made under section 2B, Disarmament, and section 1B, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[3] for related activities envisaged under programme 26.

4. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, the Secretary-General foresees requirements for Secretariat assistance and substantive support services for its implementation. No modifications would, however, be required in the activities under section 2B, Disarmament, or section 1B, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, as the activities to be undertaken under the draft resolution fall under programme 26, Disarmament (part of which is proposed to be subsumed under programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, as recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in its report[2]).

5. The cost of a planning mission is estimated at $18,000. Although at this stage it is not possible to estimate the cost of holding the meeting in Maputo, as is the case with other meetings held away from their established headquarters, it is expected that indirect costs such as local transport, local personnel and direct costs such as travel to Maputo, including excess baggage, subsistence allowance, terminal expenses, expendable supplies and other materials and communications and miscellaneous expenses, may be incurred.

6. Subject to the terms of the host country agreement to be entered into with the Government of Mozambique, it is anticipated that all costs associated with the meeting, including the planning mission, would be met by States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessments adjusted appropriately, as spelled out in article 14 of the Convention. The practice followed in the United Nations is to levy a charge, at a rate of 13 per cent of expenditures for such activities, to defray its administrative and other support costs incurred in their implementation. Accordingly, such an expense would be borne also by the States Parties and States not parties to the Convention participating therein.

7. The Committee's attention is drawn to the established practice that all activities related to international conventions or treaties that are to be financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations may be undertaken only when sufficient resources to cover the activities in question have been received from the States Parties in advance. In this connection, States Parties have recently been requested to make advance payments, which will be offset against their final shares of the total actual cost of the planning mission and the meeting, to be held in Maputo during the week of 3 May 1999.

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.33, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum* (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

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Agenda item 71
General and complete disarmament

Pakistan and India: amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.22

Nuclear testing

1. Replace operative paragraph 2 with the following:

"2. *Welcomes* the moratoria on further testing declared by certain States and their statements in the General Assembly relating to the CTBT".

2. After operative paragraph 2, add a new paragraph, as follows:

"3. *Calls on* all States that have not done so, specially those listed in Annex 2 of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, to become parties to the Treaty so as to facilitate its entry into force".

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General and complete disarmament

Nigeria and Zimbabwe: amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.22*

After operative paragraph 3, add the following new paragraph:

"4. *Urges* the five nuclear weapon States to fulfil their commitments relating to nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to intensify their efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate objective of eliminating those weapons in accordance with that article."

* See also A/C.1/53/L.61.

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General and complete disarmament

Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe: amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.22

After operative paragraph 3, add the following new paragraph:

"4. *Urges* the five nuclear weapon States to fulfil their commitments relating to nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to intensify their efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate objective of eliminating those weapons in accordance with that article."

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Agenda item 72 (d)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions In Central Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 9, 12 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the necessary support to the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in making operational the early warning mechanism which they have just established;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

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B. Relationship of the request to the programme of work

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 9, 12 and 13 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised, and section 2B, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 and the related activities are provided for under section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

4. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 12 and 13 of the draft resolution, regarding provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out within resources provided under section 2B of the regular budget for the biennium 1998–1999. The provision contained therein covers substantive servicing of four plenary sessions of the Committee during the biennium.

5. The activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, including those related to the establishment of an early warning mechanism for Central Africa, as referred to in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

6. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to respond to operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution concerning support for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Modalities for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa are currently under discussion; activities in connection therewith would be carried out subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources in the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 1998-1999

7. Modifications would not be required to programme 26, Disarmament and programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 or to sections 2B and 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

E. Potential for absorption

8. The programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 would continue to provide for substantive servicing of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee. Activities referred to in operative paragraphs 8 and 9 of the draft resolution would be financed by extrabudgetary resources. Additional requirements are therefore not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

F. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.4/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

India: amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/53/L.11

Operative paragraph 3, line 3

After force *add*

and emphasizes that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all State signatories specially, the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

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Agenda item 79
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

New Zealand: draft decision

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee, recalling its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban Treaty".

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